

## Order of Worship

*Let us be as open vessels that God's spirit may enter.*

**The Community Gathers:** Experience God's presence in the assembly. Please greet one another with joy and welcome new friends into our community of love.

*You are welcome here...come and worship!*

**Focus:** "For I remember it is Easter morn, and life and love and peace are all new born."  
-Alice Freeman Palmer

**9:55 Preparation for worship:** As the candles for our service are being lit, you are invited to prepare for worship; putting aside all distractions, creating a quiet space and opening yourselves to the Spirit..

**Gathering Music:** *The Old Rugged Cross* (by George Bennard)  
-Chris Humphrey

**Welcome:** Rev. Paula Norbert

### **Responsive Call to Worship:** John 20

Leader: Out of the darkness of grief and despair comes a message of hope. Christ is risen.

**All: Christ is risen, indeed.**

Leader: We run to the tomb to see for ourselves.

And it is true. Christ is risen.

**All: Christ is risen, indeed.**

Leader: We hear a voice call our name, and we know our risen Lord is with us now and always.

**All: Christ is risen. Christ is risen, indeed.**

**Thanks be to God.**

**Opening Hymn:** Morning Has Broken

#664

### **Invocation Prayer:**

O God of all our days, we come this morning with eager anticipation. We seek to know you, to see you, to touch you. Open our hearts, that we might experience you anew. Open our lives, that we may be faithful witnesses to your resurrection. May we, with shouts of joy, proclaim your steadfast, liberating love to all people, everywhere. Amen.

### **Lord's Prayer:**

**Awakening:** *We Are The Reason* (by David Meece) -Chris Humphrey

**Message for the children and the child in each of us:**

**Easter Is Joy**

Pastor Paula

**Readings:** John 20:1-18

-Rev. Lamar Robinson

(After the readings you may choose to respond, "Thanks be to God")

**Sermon:** The Promise of New Life

Rev. Paula Norbert

**Sermon Response:** *Meditative Instrumental ~ Because he Lives*

(by Bill Gaither)

-Chris Humphrey

**Musical call to Prayer:** Hush now in quiet peace, be still your mind at ease. The Spirit brings release, so wait upon the Lord. (two times)

### **Prayers of the People:**

Silent Prayers

Pastoral Prayer

**Offertory:** *Agnus Dei with How Great Thou Art* (by Michael Smith/ Stuart K. Hine)  
-Patricia Mulholland & The Union Church Choir

**Doxology:** Praise God from whom all blessings flow, Praise God all creatures here below. Praise God above ye heavenly hosts, Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen.

**Prayer of Dedication:**

Children's Sharing Time:

Closing Hymn: Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

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Blessing:

L: We have come from darkness and despair  
to hope and joy.

**All: We have been transformed by new life.**

L: Go forth to witness and to testify to the message of hope  
we have received this day.

**All: Christ is risen. Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

Sending Forth: May the truth of Easter,  
the joy of Easter and the blessings of Easter  
Be with you this day and all days. Amen.

Response: Thanks be to God

Recessional: *Go in Peace*

**Go in peace and the peace of God be with you this day.**

**Go in peace and the peace of God be with you always.**

**Celebrate and share the joy. Celebrate new life.**

**Go in peace and the peace of God be with you always.**

**Thank you** to Music Director, Michelle Currie and to our musicians:  
Chris Humphrey, Ada Goff & Patricia Mulholland and the Union  
Church Choir.

Thank you to Charlotte and Stella ... today's children's ministers.

**Pastor's Information:** Rev. Paula Norbert (207) 205-4951 or  
([pnorbert1217@gmail.com](mailto:pnorbert1217@gmail.com)).

# **Union Church**

## **Biddeford Pool**

*...a place of peace and Presence by the sea*



***Easter Sunday***  
***you are welcome here***  
***April 21, 2019 – 10:00 a.m***